

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 CA-01 /085 W
-----037222 011832Z /41
R 011353Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3949
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2178

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, PEPR, PO, SW
SUBJ: SWEDISH-POLISH RELATIONS: PROBLEM OF POLISH-BORN SWEDISH
JEWS

REF: STOCKHOLM 1850

1. SWEDISH PRESS LAST WEEK PUBLISHED A SPATE OF ARTICLES DOCUMENTING FURTHER REJECTIONS OF POLISH-BORN SWEDISH JEWS AT POLISH BORDER. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE, GOS IS UNDER CONTINUALLY INCREASING PRESSURE FROM SWEDISH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND THE PRESS. IN RESPONSE, MFA HAS USED ITSTOUGH-EST LANGUAGE TO DATE, PUBLICLY DENOUNCING POLAND'S REFUSAL TO RESPECT PRIME MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT "A SERIOUS BURDEN" ON THE BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP. POLES ARE TELLING SWEDISH AUTHORITIES THAT THERE WAS NEVER ANY SUCH AGREEMENT MADE DURING FALLDIN VISIT. SWEDISH MINUTES OF MEETINGS CLEARLY SHOW OTHERWISE.

2. IN ONE WIDELY-REPORTED RECENT INCIDENT, A SWEDISH CITIZEN TURNED UP WITH GROUP OF JOURNALISTS AT POLISH CONSULATE IN MALMO TO INQUIRE AS TO REASONS FOR HER REFUSED ENTRY. POLISH OFFICIALS CALLED THE JOURNALISTS "BANDITS" AND SUMMONED THE POLICE TO THROW THE JOURNALISTS OFF THE PREMISES.

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3. COMMENT: PROBLEM HAS ERUPTED INTO HIGHLY VISIBLE IRRITANT IN RELATIONS WHICH, GIVEN STIFFENING POLISH ATTITUDE, SHOWS NO SIGN OF A QUICK REMEDY. OUR MFA SOURCE AGAIN STRESSED TO POLOFF FRUSTRATION FELT BY SWEDISH OFFICIALS WHO HAVE CARRIED ISSUE TO HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL WITH TANGIBLE RESULTS.

4. NEWLY ARRIVED POLISH AMBASSADOR CIESLAR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MAY 31 AND SUBJECT OF VISAS OF COURSE CAME UP. AMBASSADOR CIESLAR WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAY THAT THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL POLISH GOVERNMENTAL POLICY SPECIFICALLY RE SWEDISH JEWS: EACH CASE WAS UNIQUE, HE STRESSED, AND EACH CASE HAD TO BE HANDLED DIFFERENTLY. AMBASSADOR CIESLAR WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POLISH-AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION IN COMBINATION WITH JEWISH-AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. HE EXHIBITED A SOPHISTICATED KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH SWEDEN AND US SOCIETIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE POLITICAL PRESSURE GROUPS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REITERATES REQUEST FROM DEPARTMENT FOR ANY INFORMATION WE CAN SHARE WITH GOS RE NATURE OF US PROBLEM WITH POLES IN THIS REGARD.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STOCKH02178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-1153
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806105/aaaadmsp.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 50b8417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STOCKHOLM 1850
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2154421
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH-POLISH RELATIONS: PROBLEM OF POLISH-BORN SWEDISH JEWS
TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, PL, SW, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/50b8417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014